



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

November 15, 2007

Operations Division
Technical Support Branch

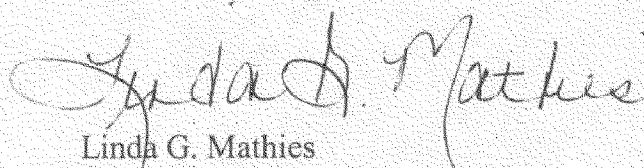
Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue, South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Dr. Roy Crabtree:

To fulfill requirements of the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) "for sea turtle takes resulting from Hopper Dredging activities" revised on January 9, 2007, the US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), is forwarding the Annual Report summarizing Fiscal Year 2007 hopper dredging projects. The CEMVN submits this report to comply with requirements described in terms and conditions 3 of the ITS. During Fiscal Year 2007 Federal maintenance conducted with hopper dredges, there were no recorded sea turtle incidental takes in the CEMVN.

This report is intended to complement project reports previously transmitted to your office. If you have questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Edward Creef at (504) 862-2521.

Sincerely,


Linda G. Mathies
Chief, Environmental Function

Attachment

ANNUAL SEA TURTLE REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2007

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

Operations Technical Support Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
(504)862-2521

INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to fulfill requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Section 7 Consultation - Biological Opinion concerning Dredging of Gulf of Mexico Navigation Channels and Sand Mining ("Borrow") Areas Using Hopper Dredges by US Army Corps of Engineers Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, and Jacksonville Districts (Consultation Number F/SER/2000/01287) dated November 19, 2003, and revised on June 24, 2005, and on January 9, 2007. The New Orleans District (CEMVN) submits this annual report summarizing Fiscal Year 2007 (FY 07) hopper dredging projects and incidental sea turtle takes to fulfill Terms and Conditions 3 of the Incidental Take Statement.

JUSTIFICATION FOR FY 07 HOPPER DREDGE USE IN CEMVN

The use of hopper dredges to maintain bar channels of the CEMVN's navigation channels is necessary because of three factors: safety, weather conditions, and productivity.

1. Hopper dredges must be utilized in the bar channels for safety. The dredges working in these channels must be highly mobile to rapidly maneuver out of the way of other vessels. Pipeline cutterhead dredges are not highly mobile and are held into position with spuds. This prevents the pipeline cutterhead dredge from quickly moving out of the channel when other vessels approach. In the Mississippi River, Southwest Pass (MR-SWP), dredge mobility is critical during high shoaling periods when multiple dredges share the navigation channel with the shipping traffic and at the entrance to the jetty reach of the MR-SWP where vessels must make a sharp turn to continue upriver.

2. The second reason hopper dredges are necessary to maintain CEMVN's bar channels is their ability to rapidly mobilize and demobilize in harsh weather. Rapidly changing, rough sea conditions in the open Gulf of Mexico create dangerous working conditions for the pipeline cutterhead dredges, which are not ocean going vessels, are anchored in place to work, and cannot sail like the hopper dredges. Rough sea conditions also break up discharge pipeline. For this reason, hopper dredges are used exclusively for maintenance work in the Calcasieu River bar channel.

3. The third reason hopper dredges are necessary to maintain bar channels in the CEMVN is the high productivity necessary to maintain project depths, especially in the MR-SWP. In the MR-SWP, during periods of high shoaling, the exclusive use of pipeline cutterhead dredges could result in shipping delays or channel closures. Shoals are removed from the MR-SWP on an as-needed basis and during rapid shoaling conditions hopper dredges are deployed and re-deployed rapidly to maintain project depth.

On January 13, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service advised CEMVN by letter that further observer deployment in the MR-SWP would be unnecessary. This decision came in response to both a habitat characterization study conducted by CEMVN, which indicated that the MR-SWP was not a suitable habitat for sea turtles, and 1996 sea turtle observer reports that

confirmed the lack of sea turtle presence and the scarcity of sea turtle prey species in the MR-SWP.

FY 07 HOPPER DREDGE MAINTENANCE DREDGING SUMMARY

During FY 07, hopper dredges were deployed for a single maintenance dredging effort in the Calcasieu River bar channel (Figure 1). Hopper dredges were deployed for 13 maintenance dredging efforts in the MR-SWP channel (Figure 2).

CALCASIEU RIVER AND PASS, LA, BAR CHANNEL

During FY 07, maintenance of the Calcasieu River bar channel was performed under a single contract. Maintenance dredging was performed under contract W912P8-07-C-0041 from February 24, 2007, through April 24, 2007, using the hopper dredge NEWPORT. The required depth of dredging was -43 feet Mean Low Gulf (MLG) and the dredging width was 800 feet (full cut). All work was performed in either the agitation mode, or in the dredge and haul mode with disposal into the ocean dredged material disposal site (ODMDS).

The NEWPORT began its work in the Calcasieu River bar channel on February 24, 2007, and finished on April 24, 2007. During this period, the dredge worked a total of 58 days between bar channel miles Mile -0.2 to Mile -9.3. A total of 117 loads of dredged material were collected. The NEWPORT excavated a total of 5,382,806 cubic yards (CY) of material from this project (5,185,188 CY by the agitation method and 197,618 CY by the dredge and haul method).

For additional information, reference the project dredging report 07-1-Calc forwarded to your office on May 24, 2007.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER, SOUTHWEST PASS, LA

In FY 07, maintenance dredging in MR-SWP was performed under 7 hopper dredge contracts and 6 Government hopper dredge work assignments approximately between Mile 5.5 Above Head of Passes and Mile 22.0 Below Head of Passes. Work began in January 2007 and was completed in August 2007. Approximately 5,426,616 CY of dredged material were placed in the ODMDS.

FY 07 INCIDENTAL TAKE SUMMARY

During FY 07, no sea turtle incidental takes were recorded.

RELOCATION TRAWLING SUMMARY

During FY 07, no sea turtle relocation trawling was performed for hopper dredging jobs in the CEMVN.

SEA TURTLE STRANDING and SALVAGE NETWORK SUMMARY

Throughout FY 07 hopper dredging work, CEMVN maintained close coordination with the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network in Louisiana (Michelle Kelley of the Aquarium of the Americas). There were no reports of stranded turtles that bore injuries consistent with a potential encounter with a hopper dredge for Calcasieu River bar channel work.

FY 07 SUMMARY

During FY 07 CEMVN hopper dredging efforts, no sea turtle incidental takes were recorded. No sea turtle relocation trawling was performed for hopper dredging work in the CEMVN. A single hopper dredge maintenance effort was performed in the Calcasieu River bar channel, while 13 hopper dredge maintenance efforts were performed in the MR-SWP channel.

During the FY 95 through FY 07 time period, the CEMVN has documented 60 sea turtle incidental takes: 5 sea turtle incidental takes have occurred in the Calcasieu River bar channel, and 55 sea turtle incidental takes have occurred in the MR-GO bar channel. Summary information regarding CEMVN sea turtle takes by fiscal year, by project, and by hopper dredge is provided in Appendix A.

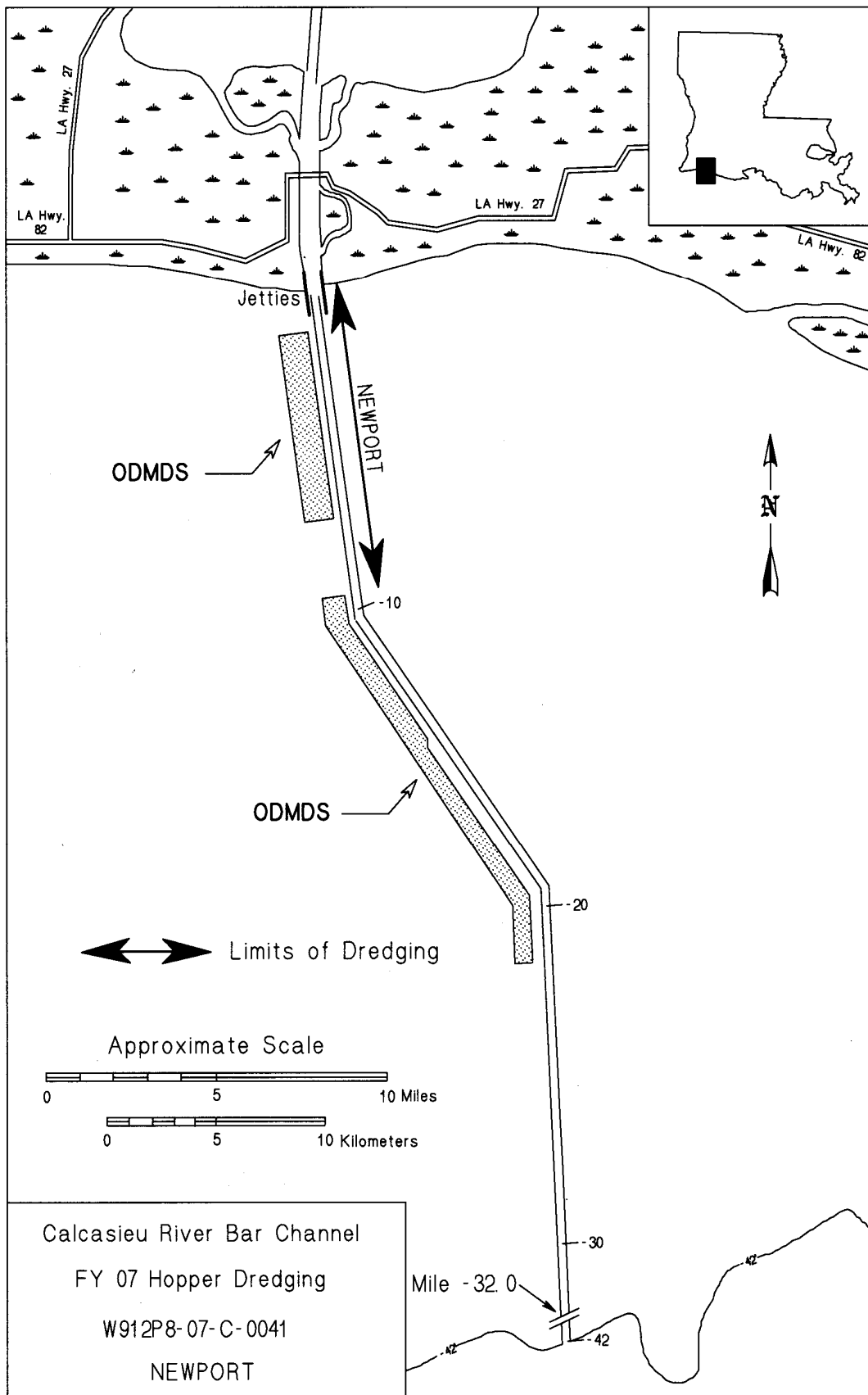


Figure 1

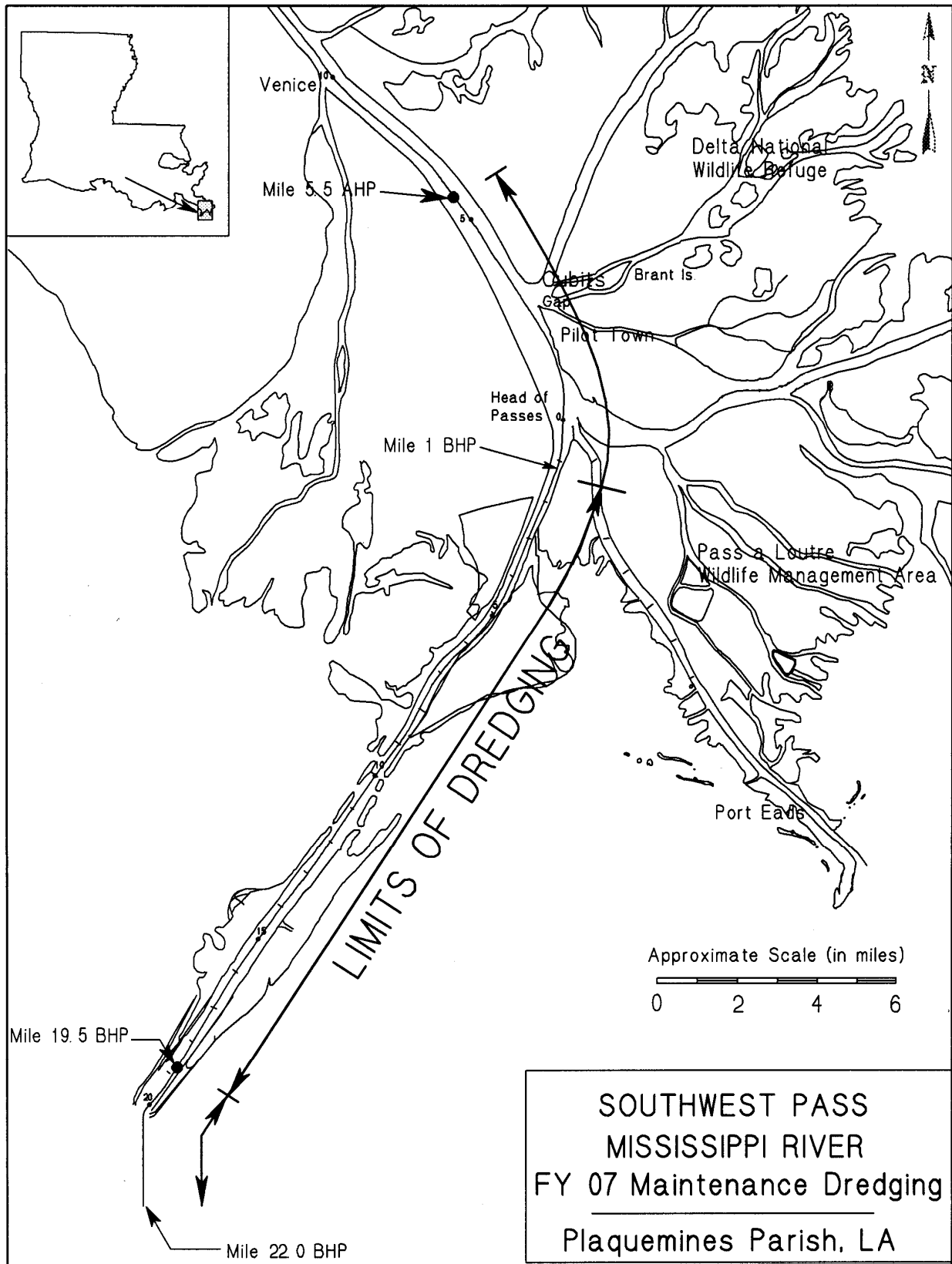


Figure 2

APPENDIX A

**SEA TURTLE TAKES BY FISCAL YEAR, PROJECT,
and HOPPER DREDGE**

TABLE 1					
SEA TURTLE TAKES BY FISCAL YEAR					
Species and Incidental Take per Fiscal Year					
Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 1995					
Total FY 95	0	0	0	0	
Fiscal Year 1996					
23 Sep 1996					1
Total FY 96					1
Fiscal Year 1997					
22 Oct 1996		1			
26 Oct 1996		1			
27 Oct 1996		1			
14 Nov 1996		1			
08 Dec 1996		1			
Total FY 97		5			
Fiscal Year 1998					
31 Oct 1997	1				
01 Apr 1998		1			
05 Apr 1998		1			
11 Apr 1998		1			
13 Apr 1998		1			
19 Jun 1998	1				
13 Jul 1998		1			
Total FY 98	2	5			
Fiscal Year 1999					
7 Oct 1998	1				
13 Apr 1999	1				
Total FY 99	2				

Table 1 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 2000					
15 Apr 2000		1			
17 Apr 2000	1				
Total FY 00	1	1			
Fiscal Year 2001					
4 Nov 2000	1				
24 Apr 2001	1				
27 Apr 2001		1			
29 Apr 2001		1			
2 May 2001		1			
4 May 2001		1			
25 May 2001		2			
26 May 2001		1			
28 May 2001		1			
29 May 2001		1			
10 June 2001		1			
24 July 2001		1			
Total FY 01	2	11			
Fiscal Year 2002					
9 May 2002		1			
14 May 2002	1				
14 Oct 2002		1			
Total FY 02	1	2			

Table 1 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 2003					
11 Apr 2003		1			
4 May 2003		1			
5 May 2003		1			
1 Jun 2003		1			
7 Jun 2003		1			
10 Jun 2003		1			
22 Jun 2003		1			
1 Jul 2003		1			
10 Sep 2003		1			
13 Sep 2003		1			
Total FY 03		10			
Fiscal Year 2004					
20 Mar 2004	1				
Total FY 04	1				
Fiscal Year 2005					
3 Oct 2004		1			
6 Oct 2004		1			
7 Oct 2004		1			
12 Oct 2004		1			
16 Oct 2004		1			
19 Oct 2004		1			
22 Oct 2004		1			
3 Nov 2004		1			
8 Nov 2004		1			
13 Nov 2004		1			
30 Nov 2004		1			
6 Dec 2004		2			
25 Jan 2005			1		
18 Aug 2005		1			
Total FY 05		14	1		

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 2006					
10 Sep 2006	1				
Total FY 06	1				
Fiscal Year 2007					
Total FY 07	0	0	0	0	0

Total Sea Turtle Takes for New Orleans District from FY 95 through FY 07

	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Total Take FY95-FY07	10	48	1	0	1

TABLE 2					
SEA TURTLE TAKES BY PROJECT					
Species and Incidental Take per Fiscal Year					
Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 1995					
Total FY 95	0	0	0	0	
Fiscal Year 1996					
MR-GO					
23 Sep 1996					1
Total FY 96					1
Fiscal Year 1997					
MR-GO					
22 Oct 1996		1			
26 Oct 1996		1			
27 Oct 1996		1			
14 Nov 1996		1			
08 Dec 1996		1			
Total FY 97		5			
Fiscal Year 1998					
MR-GO					
31 Oct 1997	1				
01 Apr 1998		1			
05 Apr 1998		1			
11 Apr 1998		1			
13 Apr 1998		1			
19 Jun 1998	1				
13 Jul 1998		1			
Total FY 98	2	5			

Table 2 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 1999					
MR-GO					
7 Oct 1998	1				
13 Apr 1999	1				
Total FY 99	2				
Fiscal Year 2000					
MR-GO					
15 Apr 2000		1			
CALCASIEU RIVER					
17 Apr 2000	1				
Total FY 00	1	1			
Fiscal Year 2001					
MR-GO					
24 Apr 2001	1				
27 Apr 2001		1			
29 Apr 2001		1			
2 May 2001		1			
4 May 2001		1			
25 May 2001		2			
26 May 2001		1			
28 May 2001		1			
29 May 2001		1			
10 June 2001		1			
24 July 2001		1			

Table 2 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
CALCASIEU RIVER					
4 Nov 2000	1				
Total FY 01	2	11			
Fiscal Year 2002					
MR-GO					
9 May 2002		1			
14 Oct 2002		1			
CALCASIEU RIVER					
14 May 2002	1				
Total FY 02	1	2			
Fiscal Year 2003					
MR-GO					
11 Apr 2003		1			
4 May 2003		1			
5 May 2003		1			
1 Jun 2003		1			
7 Jun 2003		1			
10 Jun 2003		1			
22 Jun 2003		1			
1 Jul 2003		1			
10 Sep 2003		1			
13 Sep 2003		1			
Total FY 03		10			
Fiscal Year 2004					
CALCASIEU RIVER					
19 Mar 2004	1				
Total FY 04	1				

Table 2 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
Fiscal Year 2005					
MR-GO					
3 Oct 2004		1			
6 Oct 2004		1			
7 Oct 2004		1			
12 Oct 2004		1			
16 Oct 2004		1			
19 Oct 2004		1			
22 Oct 2004		1			
3 Nov 2004		1			
8 Nov 2004		1			
13 Nov 2004		1			
30 Nov 2004		1			
6 Dec 2004		2			
25 Jan 2005			1		
18 Aug 2005		1			
Total FY 05		14	1		
Fiscal Year 2006					
CALCASIEU RIVER					
10 Sep 2006	1				
Total FY 06	1				
Fiscal Year 2007					
Total FY 07	0	0	0	0	0

Take Totals FY95-FY07

	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
MR-GO	5	48	1	0	1
CALCASIEU RIVER	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	48	1	0	1

TABLE 3					
SEA TURTLE TAKES BY DREDGE					
Species and Incidental Take per Fiscal Year					
Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
<u>Atchafalaya</u>					
17 Apr 00	1				
Total	1				
<u>Bayport</u>					
11 Apr 03		1			
4 May 03		1			
5 May 03		1			
1 Jun 03		1			
7 Jun 03		1			
10 Jun 03		1			
22 Jun 03		1			
1 Jul 03		1			
8 Nov 04		1			
Total		9			
<u>B.E. Lindholm (Ouachita)</u>					
08 Dec 96		1			
13 Apr 99	1				
4 Nov 00	1				
Total	2	1			
<u>Columbia</u>					
10 Sep 06	1				
Total	1				
<u>Dodge Island</u>					
14 May 02	1				
Total	1				

Table 3 continued

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
<u><i>Eagle I</i></u>					
31 Oct 97	1				
9 May 02		1			
6 Oct 04		1			
7 Oct 04		1			
12 Oct 04		1			
30 Nov 04		1			
Total	1	5			
<u><i>Manhattan Island</i></u>					
22 Oct 96		1			
14 Nov 96		1			
24 Jul 01		1			
22 Oct 04		1			
3 Nov 04		1			
13 Nov 04		1			
Total		6			
<u><i>McFarland</i></u>					
01 Apr 98		1			
05 Apr 98		1			
11 Apr 98		1			
13 Apr 98		1			
19 Jun 98	1				
13 Jul 98		1			
15 Apr 00		1			
24 Apr 01	1				
27 Apr 01		1			
29 Apr 01		1			

Table 3 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
<i><u>McFarland continued</u></i>					
2 May 01		1			
4 May 01		1			
25 May 01		1			
26 May 01		1			
28 May 01		1			
29 May 01		1			
10 Jun 01		1			
Total	2	15			
<i><u>Newport</u></i>					
14 Oct 02		1			
1 Jul 03		1			
3 Oct 04		1			
16 Oct 04		1			
19 Oct 04		1			
6 Dec 04		2			
Total		7			
<i><u>Padre Island</u></i>					
26 Oct 96		1			
27 Oct 96		1			
25 Jan 05			1		
Total		2	1		
<i><u>Stuyvesant</u></i>					
23 Sep 96					1
19 Mar 04	1				
Total	1				1

Table 3 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
<i>Wheeler</i>					
07 Oct 98	1				
10 Sep 03		1			
13 Sep 03		1			
18 Aug 05		1			
Total	1	3			